

State of Vermont
Health Information Technology Fund
2008 Request for Funding Application

Section 1: Annual Plan Submission: (4-8 pages)

VITL or other applicants must submit an annual plan consistent with the statute (see below). The plan must include detailed descriptions of each project and an associated budget on the enclosed spreadsheets. The applicant must also submit an overall organization budget that reflects all of the organization's funding sources. The narrative must also detail how each project is consistent with the HIT plan and other components of Healthcare reform in the state and/or nationally. The applications should include clear distinction between projects that have firm commitments from the involved parties and projects that are prospective. Each project should have clear deliverables and outcomes related to the project and that are consistent with the statewide HIT plan.

Section 2: Project Spreadsheets (see attachment)

The attached spreadsheet includes three tabs that will provide a concise format for project reporting. The Project Summary tab is intended to provide a listing of each project, project type (interface/Blueprint/EHR), timeline and cost. The Project Detail tab provides a project specific narrative, along with detailed financial information. A Project Detail spreadsheet should be completed for each project, please copy this tab onto new worksheets as needed. The last tab is the EHR Goals and Outcomes tracking spreadsheet that tracks the outcomes related to each project.

Timeline:

The grant application for FY 2009 is due on August 15, 2008. This will include a funding request for the upcoming quarter that will begin on October 1, 2008. The funding request amount should be contained on the Project Summary worksheet. Subsequent quarterly funding request should be submitted on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 of the current calendar year. Please submit the application package electronically to rita.rounds@state.vt.us.

Sec. 7.004. 32 V.S.A. chapter 241 reads as follows:

CHAPTER 241. HEALTH IT-FUND

§ 10301. HEALTH IT-FUND

(a) The Vermont health IT-fund is established in the state treasury as a special fund to be a source of funding for medical health care information technology programs and initiatives such as those outlined in the Vermont health information technology plan administered by the Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL). One hundred percent of the fund shall be disbursed for the advancement of health information technology adoption and utilization in Vermont as appropriated by the general assembly, less any disbursements relating to the administration of the fund. The fund shall be used for the development of programs and initiatives sponsored by VITL and state entities designed to promote and improve health care information technology, including:

(1) a program to provide electronic health information systems and practice management systems for primary care practitioners in Vermont;

(2) financial support for VITL to build and operate the health information exchange network;

(3) implementation of the Blueprint for Health information technology initiatives and the advanced medical home project; and

(4) consulting services for installation, integration, and clinical process re-engineering relating to the utilization of healthcare information technology such as electronic medical records.

(d) The fund shall be administered pursuant to subchapter 5 of chapter 7 of Title 32, except that interest earned on the fund and any remaining balance shall be retained in the fund. All monies received by or generated to the fund shall be disbursed solely as allowed by appropriation of the general assembly.

(e) VITL and any other entity requesting disbursements from the health IT-fund shall develop a detailed annual plan for proposed expenditures from the health IT-fund for the upcoming fiscal year. The expenditure plan shall be included within the context of the entity's overall budget, including all revenue and expenditures. Beginning with the fiscal quarter commencing October 1, 2008, VITL and any other entity requesting disbursements from the health IT-fund shall submit proposed quarterly spending plans for review by the health care reform commission and approval by the secretary of administration. Upon the general assembly beginning its consideration of the expenditure plans for fiscal year 2010, this quarterly plan requirement shall cease.

(f) The plan developed under subsection (e) of this section shall be submitted to the secretary of administration or his or her designee, who shall then submit his or her recommendations on the plan to the health care reform commission.

(g) The secretary of administration or his or her designee shall submit an annual report on the receipts, expenditures, and balances in the health IT-fund to the joint fiscal committee at its September meeting and to the commission on health care reform by October 1. The report shall include information on the results of an annual independent study of the effectiveness of programs and initiatives funded through the health IT-fund, with reference to a baseline, benchmarks, and other measures for monitoring progress and including data on return on investments made.

(h) VITL and any other beneficiary receiving funding shall submit quarterly expenditure reports to the secretary of administration and the health care reform commission, including a year-end report by August 1.

(i) Any primary care practitioner receiving an electronic health information system, practice management system, or both pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall maximize usage of such system in accordance with the guidelines developed by VITL. A practitioner who is determined by VITL to be using the system to less than its full capacity shall be provided with an opportunity for additional instruction as needed to enable full usage of the system. If a practitioner is unwilling or unable to utilize the system to its full capacity, such practitioner shall refund to VITL the fair market value of the system.